

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A system comprising:

a directory of identifiers and metadata to a plurality of network services, wherein ^{2A} said *

5 network services receive XML inputs and produce XML outputs;

an engine for receiving requests, using said identifiers in said directory to direct said requests to access ^{3A} said network services when requested, and constructing a state storing session for interfacing with said network services by using one of said network services to transform an XML runtime model into said state storing session, wherein said runtime model defines the

10 interaction between said state storing session and said network services, wherein said state storing session uses a driver to interface with each of said network services via stateless network protocols and said state storing session is configured from said metadata from said directory; and

a plurality of service providers accessible to said plurality of drivers for providing network services identified in said directory.

15 2 (CANCELLED)

3 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a network service's input and output interfaces.

20 4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 3 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a driver associated with said network service.

5 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said network services are accessible via an API.

5 6 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said network services are XML based network services.

7 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein each of said a network service ~~provider~~ providers comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response.

8 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed, directs requests to the appropriate network services via said network service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

15 9 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The system of claim 1 wherein said requests comprise HTTP requests.

10 (CANCELED)

20 11 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for accessing network services comprising: storing identifiers and metadata of a plurality of network services in a directory, wherein said network services receive XML inputs and produce XML outputs; providing requests to an engine wherein said engine uses said identifiers to direct said requests to access said plurality of network services when requested; and

constructing a state storing session for interfacing with said network service, wherein said state storing session is created by using one of said network services to transform an XML runtime model into said state storing session, wherein said runtime model defines the interaction between said state storing session and said network services, wherein said state storing session uses a driver to interface with said plurality of network service services via stateless network protocols and said state storing session is configured from said metadata from said directory;

interfacing with said plurality of network services and with said engine via a plurality of drivers based on said requests.

12 (CANCELLED)

13 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The method of claim 11 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a service's input and output interfaces.

14 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The method of claim 13 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a driver associated with said network service.

15 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The method of claim 11 wherein said network services are accessible via an API.

16 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The method of claim 11 wherein said network services are XML based network services.

17 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The method of claim 11 wherein each of said a network service ~~provider~~ providers comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information a providing a response.

5 18 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The method of claim 11 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed, directs request to the appropriate network services via said service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

10 19 (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED): The method of claim 11 wherein said requests comprise HTTP requests.

20 (CANCELED)

21-105 (CANCELLED)

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